

Costa Rica

Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS)

FACT SHEET



The Costa Rica GYTS includes data on prevalence of cigarette and other tobacco use as well as information on five determinants of tobacco use: access/availability and price, environmental tobacco smoke exposure (ETS), cessation, media and advertising, and school curriculum. These determinants are components Costa Rica could include in a comprehensive tobacco control program. The Costa Rica GYTS was a school-based survey of students in grades 7-9, conducted in 2002. A two-stage

cluster sample design was used to produce representative data for all of Costa Rica. At the first stage, schools were selected with probability proportional to enrollment size. At the second stage, classes were randomly selected and all students in selected classes were eligible to participate. The school response rate was 92.0%, the student response rate was 80.8%, and the overall response rate was 74.3%. A total of 3214 students participated in the Costa Rica GYTS.

Prevalence

43.5% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boys = 44.7%, Girls = 41.9%)
 19.7% currently use any tobacco product (Boys = 19.5%, Girls = 19.3%)
 17.2% currently smoke cigarettes (Boys = 16.6%, Girls = 17.4%)
 6.1% currently use other tobacco products (Boys = 7.0%, Girls = 4.9%)
 18.7% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year

Knowledge and Attitudes

19.7% think boys and 17.0% think girls who smoke have more friends
 7.5% think boys and 3.8% think girls who smoke look more attractive

Access and Availability - Current Smokers

7.8% usually smoke at home
 40.0% buy cigarettes in a store
 70.2% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

Environmental Tobacco Smoke

30.0% live in homes where others smoke in their presence
 51.5% are around others who smoke in places outside their home
 81.5% think smoking should be banned from public places
 75.1% think smoke from others is harmful to them
 28.4% have one or more parents who smoke

Cessation - Current Smokers

52.2% want to stop smoking
 59.4% tried to stop smoking during the past year
 23.0% have ever received help to stop smoking

Media and Advertising

87.2% saw anti-smoking media messages, in the past 30 days
 81.7% saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines, in the past 30 days
 13.1% have an object with a cigarette brand logo
 6.7% were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company representative

School

46.5% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking
 35.8% had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke
 43.4% had been taught in class, during the past year, the effects of tobacco use

Highlights

- 20% of students currently use any form of tobacco; 17% currently smoke cigarettes; 6% currently use some other form of tobacco.
- ETS exposure indicates that 3 in 10 students live in homes where others smoke in their presence; over 5 in 10 are exposed to smoke in public places; nearly 3 in 10 have parents who smoke.
- More than 7 in 10 students think smoke from others is harmful to them.
- Over 8 in 10 students think smoking in public places should be banned.
- Over 5 in 10 smokers want to quit.
- Almost 9 in 10 students saw anti-smoking media messages in the past 30 days; over 8 in 10 students saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines in the past 30 days.